

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 29, 2018

Mr. Richard Anderson
President and Chief Executive Officer
Amtrak Headquarters
1 Massachusetts Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Anderson:

We write to express our concern that Amtrak is considering suspending operation of the Southwest Chief passenger train and instead focusing on a plan to replace long-distance train service along this route with bus service. This potential suspension is extremely concerning to the people and communities served by this train.

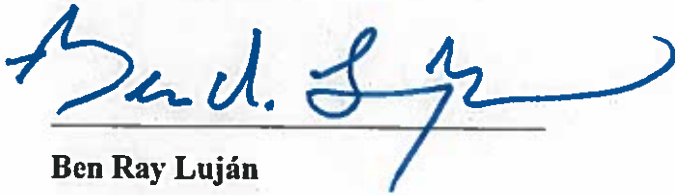
As you know, the Southwest Chief runs daily between Chicago and Los Angeles, connecting communities in Illinois, Missouri, Iowa, Kansas, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, and California. In many cases, this line serves as the only affordable alternative transportation option to highways for our citizens and it provides a critical link to public and private services in larger cities for rural residents. In addition, every summer, the Southwest Chief transports thousands of Boy Scouts from across the country to Philmont Scout Ranch near Cimarron, N.M.

We believe that replacing train service through rural communities with buses undermines Amtrak's responsibility as a quasi-governmental entity to provide intercity public transportation. In addition, it raises concerns that Amtrak may move to eliminate passenger rail service in other rural communities.

Though capital investments are needed to maintain the current route, we are pleased that the Department of Transportation (DOT) awarded multiple grants to replace segments of aging rail line on which Amtrak's Southwest Chief operates. To continue this progress, we request that Amtrak uphold its commitment to the TIGER IX grant. Further, we encourage Amtrak to apply for funding through the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Program. Recently, the Federal Railroad Administration released a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) that includes \$318 million CRISI grant funding. We urge Amtrak to also work closely with local stakeholders to find a responsible solution to ensure continued rail service.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Ben Ray Luján

Member of Congress



Scott Tipton

Member of Congress



Michelle Lujan Grisham

Member of Congress



Steve Pearce

Member of Congress



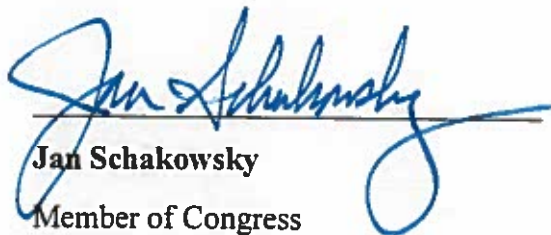
Tom O'Halleran

Member of Congress



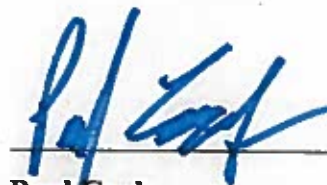
Ron Estes

Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky

Member of Congress



Paul Cook

Member of Congress



Dave Loebsack

Member of Congress



Lynn Jenkins, CPA

Member of Congress

A stylized, cursive handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Emanuel Cleaver".

Emanuel Cleaver

Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Roger W. Marshall".

Roger Marshall

Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Lucille Roybal-Allard".

Lucille Roybal-Allard

Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Tony Cárdenas".

Tony Cárdenas

Member of Congress